

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
21 April 2005 (21.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/036490 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G08B 13/14**,  
21/24

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2004/051815

(22) International Filing Date:  
21 September 2004 (21.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/509,193 7 October 2003 (07.10.2003) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.** [NL/NL];  
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **FREEMAN, Curtis**  
[US/US]; P.O. Box 3003, Bothell, WA 98041-3003 (US).

(74) Common Representative: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.**; c/o W. Brinton Yorks, Jr. P.O.  
Box 3003, Bothell, WA 98041-3003 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

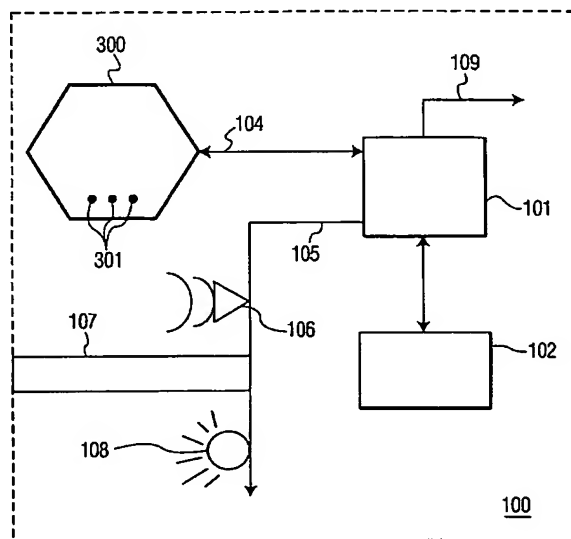
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR RETURN NOTIFICATION FOR STAND-ALONE EQUIPMENT



(57) Abstract: The apparatus and method of the present invention provide an automatic notification 105 produced by a standalone equipment 100 to indicate that the equipment 100 is due to be returned to an issuing organization or individual. Only the issuing organization or individual has the capability to reset 104 or disable the automatic notification 105. Return notification comprises visual 107 108 and/or audible 106 components that are triggered by the expiration of a timer 102 204. Optionally, for non -essential equipment, the equipment is disabled 109 until reset 104 by the issuing organization or individual.



WO 2005/036490 A1



EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE,

IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

**Published:**

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.